

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-19 were originally filed in this patent application. The Examiner has provided FOUR previous office actions. The first three were responded to with Requests for Reconsideration, and the fourth was responded to with an amendment filed on 12/02/03 that canceled claims 2, 9 and 16, that amended claims 3, 6, 10, 12, 13 and 17, and that added new claims 20-23. In the pending FIFTH office action, claims 1, 3-5 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,405,209 to Obendorf in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,317,748 to Menzies *et al.* (hereinafter "Menzies"). Claims 6-8, 10-11, 13-15, 17-19 and 21-23 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Obendorf in view of Menzies and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,430,564 to Judge *et al.* (hereinafter "Judge"). Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Obendorf in view of Menzies and Judge, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,438,559 to White *et al.* (hereinafter "White"). No claim was allowed. Claims 1, 3-8, 10-15, and 17-23 are currently pending.